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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 001525

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD/DIBBLE;
NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHIE; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR
DS/IP/NEA;
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN; USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP, PRM FOR
DEWEY/GREENE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG PHUM PREL PTER ASEC CASC GZ IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: ONE PALESTINIAN WOUNDED BY IDF FIRE
IN WEST BANK; ONE PALESTINIAN WOUNDED IN GAZA, ACCORDING TO
IDF, TWO WOUNDED, ACCORDING TO UNRWA -- MARCH 14, 2005
(1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

[11](#). (SBU) Summary: One Palestinian was wounded in the West Bank by IDF fire and, according to UNRWA, two Palestinians were wounded in IDF-initiated shootings in Gaza. The IDF, however, says that only one Palestinian was wounded in the same incident. Thousands of Gazans turned out March 12 to peacefully protest unemployment, calling upon the Palestinian Authority to open border crossings into Israel, which would allow them to work in Israel, according to Israeli media. End Summary.

West Bank

(SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian media, IDF troops operated north of Tulkarm in Saida and Allar on March 12. During the course of the operation, one Palestinian, who reportedly threw three firebombs at IDF soldiers, was wounded by IDF gunfire.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, a 19-year-old Palestinian woman was arrested by IDF soldiers in Hebron on March 12. She was carrying a knife at the time of the arrest and was detained on suspicion of planning to stab a soldier. According to Israeli sources, the woman was later released.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian media, four members of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) were arrested during an IDF operation in the village of Baqa al Sharqiya on March 13.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, two wanted Palestinian militants were arrested by the IDF in Hebron and Silwad, near Ramallah, on the morning of March 14.

-- Security Incidents: According to Palestinian sources, Israeli settlers in Hebron physically assaulted two Palestinian teenagers on March 12.

(SBU) DEMOLITIONS/CONFISCATIONS:

-- According to Palestinian sources, the IDF confiscated 160 dunums of land in Der al Hatab village, near Nablus, on March [13](#). The village council claimed that the confiscation was ordered for military purposes. The lands are adjacent to the Alon Moreh settlement, near Nablus.

(SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- The Hebron University administration held student council elections on March 14. A reported nine students were injured in clashes between Hamas and Fatah supporters in pre-election violence March 13.

-- United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan is scheduled to meet with PA President Abbas and other PA officials on March 14. A Palestinian NGO called for a protest against Annan for his reported refusal to visit refugee camps or inspect the Palestinian villages harmed by the separation barrier.

Gaza

(SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: The IDF reported that one Palestinian was moderately injured northeast of Nachal Oz by IDF fire. According to UNRWA, two Palestinians were injured with one transported by the IDF for medical treatment, and the other one transported by Palestinian security forces for medical treatment to an area hospital.

-- Mortars/Rockets: Nil.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported that Palestinians shot at IDF soldiers March 11 in two incidents, one north of Rafah and another near Kfar Darom, but no injuries resulted. On March 14, the IDF reported that soldiers shot at Palestinian suspects northeast of Nachal Oz, moderately injuring one Palestinian. According to UNRWA, two Palestinians were injured in this incident (see "Injuries").

-- Explosions: Nil.

(SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

(SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was closed March 12-14, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction. Only public transportation was allowed to cross Abu Khouli checkpoint March 12-13. On March 14, private vehicles were allowed to cross.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals and for a limited number of Palestinians March 11-13, and on March 11, 573 laborers aged 35 and above and 83 merchants crossed into Israel. On March 12, 38 laborers and 18 merchants crossed into Israel, and on March 13, 1,065 laborers and 149 merchants crossed into Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was closed March 11-12, but open on March 13 with 583 laborers entering.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers March 12-14, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction March 13-14.

-- Karni Terminal was open March 12-14, but operated slowly.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures March 12-14.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed March 12-14. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi March 12-14.

(SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Israeli media reported that thousands of unemployed Gazans peacefully protested March 12 calling upon the Palestinian Authority to help them find jobs. The protesters demanded that the PA press the GOI to open the Israeli-Palestinian border crossings to allow them to return to work in Israel. No injuries or arrests occurred.

-- Hamas leader Mohammed Ghazal announced at a press conference March 12 in Nablus, that Hamas would participate in local elections in Gaza and the West Bank during the summer of 2005.

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